

The commenter proposes adding clarifying statements to either 1) require all air be enclosed in ducts, or 2) additional wording is added to clarify that all materials in ceiling or floor plenums need to be tested. These materials include pipe insulation, electrical wiring, ceiling tiles, building insulation, structural coatings, and other materials.

Project Committee Response:

The Committee rejects this comment because this section is intended to apply to "designed airstream surfaces". That is, surfaces that are "integrated" elements of the HVAC system. The proposed addendum does not address surfaces "that may be contacted by the airstream". Such surfaces can occur in return air plenums and include the materials listed by the commenter. The Committee recognizes that a number of these materials can support microbial growth and have been associated with indoor air quality problems. However, it is beyond the scope of the Standard to prescribe mandatory testing for the broad range of products that may incidentally be associated with the HVAC system. This concern would be better addressed in the informative Guide that will be developed to support this Standard.